

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 SSC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-12
TRSE-00 EB-08 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV EG

SUBJECT: MORE ON CABINET RESHUFFLE

SUMMARY: CABINET CHANGES TO BE FINALIZED TODAY;
ANNOUNCED SUNDAY OR MONDAY. FIRST SPECULATION ON
GAMASY'S POSSIBLE DEPARTURE FLOATED, PROBABLY AS RESULT
HIS NON-ATTENDANCE MAY 2 SPEECH. AMBASSADOR PLANS
QUERY MUBARAK TONIGHT. ABDEL RAZZAK ABDEL MEGUID
SAID TO BE RETURNING TO PLANNING MINISTRY. EMBASSY
CAUTIONS AGAINST ASCRIBING PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE
TO SPATE OF RUMORS. SALEM TALKING TO VERY FEW ABOUT
RESHUFFLE. END SUMMARY.

1. MAY 6 PRESS REPORTS SADAT TO MEET TODAY WITH PM
SALEM TO FINALIZE CABINET RESHUFFLE, WHICH EXPECTED
BE ANNOUNCED SUNDAY OR MONDAY. PAPERS PREDICT CHANGES
WILL BE LIMITED. SALEM MET YESTERDAY WITH INDIVIDUALS
WHO WILL JOIN CABINET, BUT ONLY ABDEL RAZZAK ABDEL
MEGUID IDENTIFIED. (ABDEL MEGUID SLATED FOR MINISTER
OF PLANNING POST HE FORMERLY HELD, INEFFECTIVELY.)

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PRESS CONTINUES PREDICT TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION,
SUPPLY AND TRADE, AND EDUCATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION
PORTFOLIOS WILL BE SEPARATED.

2. ONLY AKHBAR AL-YOM WENT PUBLIC WITH LIST OF
NOMINATIONS REPORTEDLY CIRCULATED AMONG MEMBERS OF
PEOPLES ASSEMBLY (BUT BY WHOM UNCLEAR);

- MINISTER OF SUPPLY: MOHAMED HAMED MAHMOUD
- MINISTER OF TRADE: ZAKARIA TEWFIK
- MINISTER OF PLANNING: DR. ABDEL RAZZAK ABDEL MEGUID
- MINISTER OF WAR: GENERAL MOHAMED ALY FAHMY
- MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION: DR. SOFI ABU TALEB
- MINISTER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AFFAIRS: DR. MOHAMED HAFEZ GHANEM
- MINISTER OF STATE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT: DR. NAIM ABU TALEB
- MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF APPEALS: FUAD AL-RASHIDI

(COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST SPECULATION ON POSSIBLE REMOVAL OF GENERAL GAMASY, WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN SPARKED BY FACT HE DID NOT ATTEND SADAT'S MAY 2 SPEECH. AMBASSADOR PLANS QUERY VP MUBARAK THIS EVENING ON THIS REPORT.)

3. AKHBAR AL-YOM FURTHER CLAIMS FOLLOWING MINISTERS TO REMAIN IN OFFICE:

- MINISTER OF INTERIOR: MAJ. GEN. NABAWI ISMAIL
- MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS: DR. AMAL OSMAN
- MINISTER OF IRRIGATION: ABDEL AZIM ABUL ATA
- MINISTER OF ECONOMY: DR. HAMED AL-SAYEH
- MINISTER OF FINANCE: DR. SALAH HAMED

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4. TIED TO ABOVE, AKHBAR AL-YOM POSITS MAHMOUD ABU WAFIA WILL BECOME DEPUTY LEADER OF CENTER PARTY, WITH FUAD MOHIE EL-DIN DEVOTING FULL TIME TO SECRETARY GENERAL DUTIES. (ABU WAFIA IS SADAT RELATIVE; MOHIE EL-DIN'S PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN STRONGLY CRITICIZED.)

5. EDITORIALS. AKHBAR AL-YOM'S MUSTAFA AMIN ADMITS EGYPTIANS ENJOY MINISTERIAL CHANGES AND DELIGHT IN SPREADING RUMORS ON DEPARTURE UNPOPULAR OFFICIALS. NEVERTHELESS, AMIN SAID FREQUENT CHANGES NOT IN NATIONAL INTEREST, NOTING THAT FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN COMPLAIN OF FACT THEY FORCED DEAL WITH NEW MINISTERS ON EACH TRIP TO EGYPT. FOR THIS REASON, AMIN PREDICTS SALEM WILL LIMIT SCOPE OF SHUFFLE.

6. COMMENT: CAUTION AGAINST ASCRIBING PARTICULAR VERACITY TO AKHBAR AL-YOM PREDICTIONS. SALEM PLAYING THIS ONE CLOSE TO CHEST. SPEAKING TO EMBOFF AT SOCIAL OCCASION EVENING MAY 5, DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION MOURSI SAAD EDDIN SAID PM HAS TAKEN FEW INTO HIS CONFIDENCE. MOURSI, HIMSELF, SITTING CLOSE TO HIS PHONE IN HOPE

OF BEING TAGGED FOR INFORMATION PORTFOLIO. ADMITTED,
RUEFULLY, THUS FAR PHONE HAS NOT RUNG. EILTS

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FIRST SPECULATION ON
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